Countries are bringing similar regulations?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) The German Government's Packaging Ordinance dated 12-6-91 relates to avoidance of waste from packaging and envisages packaging from environmentally compatible, re-usable or recyclable materials. It covers sales packaging, secondary packaging and transport packaging, drinks packaging etc.

(c) and (d) Efforts are being made to disseminate the information to the Indian exporters so that they can meet the new regulations in order to promote our exports.

(e) We are not aware of similar regulations being brought by other European countries.

Ban on the imports of the goods by Germany and Switzerland

2879. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Germany and Switzerland are taking actions to ban the import of goods made by child labour;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether such ban will affect our carpet export; and

(d) if so, what are the steps taken to meet such a situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) there is no ban at present.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Employment of children has sometimes been publicised in these countries. In view of the likely adverse impact on Indian carpet exports, some measures taken in this respect include the supply of publicity material and video cassettes to importers which bring out the employment of children in its proper perspective.

India's balance of trade position

2880. SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question No. 99 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 3rd March, 1992 and state the position of country's balance of trade during the years 1989-90, 1990-91 and 1991-92?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): The country's trade deficit during the year 1989-90 and 1990-91 amounted to Rs. 7734 crores and Rs. 10640 crores respectively. The trade figures for the financial year 1991-92 are available upto April-December 1991 and the trade deficit for this period amounted to Rs. 3906 crores.

Enhancement of threshhold limit for recognition of export houses

2881. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal with government to enchance the threshhold limits for recognition of export houses, trade houses and star trade houses; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The New Import and Export Policy effective from 1.4.1992 is being formulated.

India's trade relation with Kuwait and Iraq

2882. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of measures Government have taken, so far, to restore the trade relations with Kuwait and Iraq in the Post-Gulf-War period, till date; and

(b) what are the details of the areas in which India suffered a loss of exports due to Gulf-war?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Ban on trade with Kuwait was lifted on 14th March, 1991 after her soverignty was restored. Since then exports to Kuwait